

WASHINGTON

Exciting Scenes in Both Houses of Congress.

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WASHINGTON, March 5, 1869.

Scenes in the Senate Chamber—Swearing in of Parson Brownlow—Feble Condition of the Old Veteran—Change of Seats of Senators.

The Senate was the great centre of attraction to-day, everybody being satisfied that Grant's Cabinet would be sent in, and the majority of people freely supposing that the anxiously desired names of the President's advisers would be read aloud in open session. All the strangers in the city started early for the Capitol, and before eleven o'clock filled all the seats in the galleries of the Senate. By noon the crowd was so great that all the entrances and aisles were blocked up, and both the diplomatic and reporters' galleries were besieged respectively by legation diplomats and bogus members of the press. The gentlemen's gallery was fairly black with visitors, and the ladies' gallery was laid entirely under contribution by a host of well dressed fair ones.

Vice President Colfax made his appearance promptly at twelve, every eye being directed toward him in assuming his new rôle of presiding officer of the Senate. He struck the gavel on the desk, announcing the signal for the opening prayer, and Dr. Gray forthwith began a solemn and affecting appeal to the Throne of Heaven to protect and guide the newly inducted President and Vice President of the United States. The prayer was unusually long, and was listened to with profound attention. This over, the new President of the Senate called for the reading of the minutes, and in this simple feature of his opening duties showed at once his superiority in manner and readiness to his predecessor. He then announced as the next thing in order the swearing in of the Senator from Tennessee, Parson Brownlow, who was absent yesterday. The Parson sat in a soft cushioned chair at the left of the chamber, and immediately under one wing of the ladies' gallery. Being unable to rise and walk over to the President's desk, Mr. Colfax said the Senator could go through the ceremony where he sat. This announcement drew all eyes in the direction of the Parson, who certainly presented the most extraordinary picture of physical debility that was ever before witnessed in any legislative assembly. Thad Stevens might have been considered, when brought into the Senate Chamber on men's shoulders to take his place among the managers in the memorable days of the impeachment trial, the best illustration up to that time presented of the triumph of intellect over a shattered and prostrate bodily organism, but Brownlow's appearance showed even greater indications of physical wreck and ruin, and yet the latter lacks nothing of the same unconquerable mental fire and energy that marked to his latest moments the character of the Great Commoner. Brownlow lay back in his chair, his head bent down, his face shrivelled, ghastly and of unearthly hue, his hands clasped in bony vice-like grasp, and his whole appearance indicative of great physical depression. As Mr. Colfax read the oath the poor old Parson raised his feeble arm, which shook with palsy and dropped every moment to his side. Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Bassett went over and sustained his arm through the remainder of the ceremony, though the old man made one or two desperate efforts by himself to sustain the right arm by propping it with the left hand. There were few in that Senate, no matter what their politics, but felt stirred to commiseration at this appealing spectacle of suffering humanity. Democrats could readily forgive their inveterate foe, at the sight of so much that touched their better nature. After he had taken the oath the Parson stretched forth his hand for a glass of water, which shook wildly before it reached his lips. The ordeal, slight as it seemed, had completely exhausted him.

The regular business of the Senate then went on. Mr. Colfax rattling over his portion with accustomed speed and nimbleness of expression. The new Senators, in the absence of anything more attractive, were sought out as objects of criticism, and various were the comments on the physiognomical developments of this Senator and that.

It was observed that a change had taken place in the disposition of some of the seats. Drake and Conkling occupied the places of Dixon and Doolittle, two excellent positions for catching the President's eye. On the other side Cole and Fowler settled themselves down into the seats yesterday vacated by Henderson of Missouri, and Morrill of Maine. Kellogg, of Louisiana, arranged his papers on the desk where Morgan the silent was wont to con over the everlasting memorials from the Chamber of Commerce of New York. Cassery, of California, was stowed away in a remote corner, where, however, though little seen, he can always make himself distinctly heard. Abbott, of North Carolina, dropped into the old familiar seat of the departed Hendricks, one of the most high toned and accomplished gentlemen of the democratic members. The democratic Senators were all huddled together in the right hand corner—a miserable remnant of their former selves. It was a sad commentary on departed grandeur to see that once splendid party, that carried the nation for so many years onward to fortune, reduced to this small representation in the highest of the national councils. None are left among them now to prick the unholty conscience of rampant radicalism save the immortal Garrett Davis. Thurman, of Ohio, and Cassery, of California, will do their polished best, and the rugged courage of McCree will be ever ready to defend democratic principles and assail the ramparts of radicalism; but the odds are fearful, and Tippecanoe, of Nebraska, is on the other side.

The session was not of striking interest except as already described. Nothing of importance was introduced, and it was evident Senators were in no mood to go seriously to work until they should have officially from the new President.

Committee Appointed to Wait on President Grant—The President's First Message to the Senate—The Cabinet Nominations—Great Excitement.

General Rawlins made his appearance in the Senate chamber about half-past twelve, but gave no sign that he was there for any special purpose. His appearance, however, seemed to stimulate the Senators to some action looking to a speedy communication with President Grant. Old Simon Cameron moved for a joint committee to wait on the President, and the committee was announced. Cameron himself being the head and McCree, of Kentucky, the tail of the senatorial delegation. A bill followed this, and in the meantime the question was taken over to the House to be concurred in; but the House was in a wrangle about something or other and not prepared to appoint its part of the joint committee. After waiting, therefore, for some time the Senate began talking, talking of Iowa, moved for an independent committee on the part of the Senate

alone to wait on the President, and inform him the Senate was ready to receive any communications from him. This was carried. Grimes and Cragin were appointed, and a few moments later a recess of forty-five minutes was agreed to. Senators Grimes and Cragin lost no time in repairing on their mission. They jumped into a carriage and drove off at lightning speed towards the White House, which they reached about twenty minutes past one o'clock. Previous to their arrival a great number of citizens who could boast of no official dignity had gathered about the doors of the Executive Mansion, but the Presidential order to the doorknockers was, "Admit no person unless he may have business to transact with me." As the plain citizens had no other business than to look upon the little General who has undertaken to fill the Executive chair, they were denied admission; but when the grave and reverend Senators made their appearance the doors were open before they had alighted from their carriage. Messrs. Grimes and Cragin ascended to the second floor and informed the usher that they were there in the capacity of a committee from the Senate, and desired to see the President. That functionary departed in search of the Chief Magistrate, who, not being comfortably settled in any particular room, was sometimes in one and sometimes in another. He was found in the room formerly used by Mr. Johnson's secretaries, with his hat on, dividing his attention between several officers of his staff and his cigar. He gave directions that the committee should be shown in. They entered and the door was closed on the confidential interview. The committee performed the duty entrusted to it, and about fifteen minutes were passed in a friendly conversation, after which they left, the President walking to the door of the apartment with them. A few minutes before the expiration of the recess Senators Grimes and Cragin re-appeared, having returned from their visit to the little man at the other end of the avenue, and being ready to report the result of their interview. The deepest interest was manifested by every one present. The Senators and outsiders on the floor crowded around Grimes to ascertain what he had learned. Cragin was beset by another crowd equally eager and curious. The people in the galleries ceased conversing and leaned forward, striving to hear what Grimes and Cragin might be saying. One, two, three, four minutes went by and the recess expired. Vice President Colfax rapped the Senators to order again. A profound silence instantly ensued, and Grimes stood up to make his report. Every eye fastened upon him and every ear listened with the utmost attention. Mr. Grimes said, "I say, brief and to the point. He had seen the President, had told him the desires of the Senate, and had been informed that the President would be pleased to communicate his first messages to the Senate immediately. Saying this, Grimes sat down smilingly, and wheeled his chair half around to take in with his eye General John A. Rawlins, who was occupying a seat behind the outer row of desks close to the main door.

General Rawlins seemed to understand this movement of Senator Grimes as a signal that the moment had arrived when he ought to do something. Accordingly he rose and advanced to the centre aisle, where he stood for a few seconds facing Vice President Colfax, ere Mr. Bassett, the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, could get to his side, with the object of introducing him to the Senate, according to parliamentary usage. The interest at this point of the proceedings was intense. "Now we'll have the Cabinet, sure!" whispered simultaneously almost half the spectators. "Message from the President of the United States!" shouted Mr. Bassett.

General Rawlins came forward a few more steps, and said in a moderate tone, but perfectly audible to all—"Mr. President" (bowing at the same time to Mr. Colfax)—"the latter responded in two words, saying, 'Mr. Secretary,' and then Rawlins exclaimed, 'I am directed by the President of the United States to deliver to the Senate two messages in writing.' General Rawlins placed his hand in the side pocket of his coat, drew forth two small sealed letters, delivered them to Mr. Bassett, bowed and then retired to his back seat.

Such, in brief, was the ceremony attending the delivery of Grant's first messages to the Senate of the United States. Mr. Bassett hurried with the precious documents to the desk of the Vice President, and almost at the same moment one of the Senators moved that the Senate proceed to the consideration of executive business. The motion was adopted, the galleries were cleared, the doors closed and the spectators hurried down stairs, discontented and grumbling at the selfishness of the Senate in keeping all the interesting secrets to itself. "Why should the Senate turn all the people out of doors simply to hear the announcement of Grant's Cabinet?" "Why could it not allow everybody to hear the nominations of Grant?" "What was the sense of this secret session at all?" and many other similar questions were muttered by the crowd swarming the corridors, rushing down the stairs, and clumping in the lobbies. But complaining did no good, and after a few seconds gave way to speculations as to who would or would not be the appointees. Hundreds of names were mentioned, but of all nominated only three turned out to be really among those sent in by President Grant. These three names were Stewart, Washburne and Creswell.

General Rawlins on emerging from the Senate was besieged by all who knew him, and by many who had never had the honor of acquaintance, and besought to divulge the secret, but to all appeals he was deaf. Everybody who tried to coax him into telling or to pump it out of him was obliged to turn away unsatisfied. All this occupied not more than two minutes, but they were minutes that seemed like hours to the impatient waiters, who were dying to hear the names of the Cabinet.

When the doors had been shut about this length of time one of them near the lobby at the rear of the chamber opened and a couple of Senators issued forth. The cat was let out of the bag immediately. The crowd made an attack upon the unprepared Senators, completely surrounded them, and levelled at them such a shower of queries that they were obliged to capitulate. The secret was therefore told. "Alexander T. Stewart, of New York, for the Secretary of the Treasury," whispered one of the Senators. "Elliott B. Washburne, of Illinois, Secretary of the Navy; John A. J. Creswell, of Maryland, Postmaster General; Jacob D. Cox, of Ohio, Secretary of the Interior, and Judge E. B. Hoar, of Massachusetts, Attorney General."

The names were soon circulating in every direction. The telegraph office could not have communicated them more rapidly than they were transmitted from one part of the Capitol to the other, and from the Capitol itself all around the town.

"Boris for the Navy!" exclaims one. "Who in the world is Boris? Where does he come from? What's his business? Boris! Boris! Boris! That's a queer name. Can anybody tell me who Boris is?" "Yes, sir," responded another; "he is a Pennsylvanian; a good man, too—A. N. L."

"Never heard of him before. He can't be much. Grant has indeed kept his promise about the Pennsylvania representative. He has surprised everybody. Who did you say was for Attorney General?" "Hoar—Judge Hoar, of Massachusetts."

"You say you don't know of him before?" "Yes, distinguished lawyer, however, I can tell you, and a man who will do honor to the position."

"It may be sir; I don't dispute it."

"But I do!" exclaimed a third; "Hoar is a man I know something of. He is one of your stiff aristocrats; sour as a crab apple, too; no sympathy, no heart; all intellect and very selfish."

"What Cox is it that has the Interior Department?" asked a fourth.

"Why, don't you know? There is only one man of the name of prominence in Ohio. It is ex-Lieutenant Governor Cox, the man who would not accept the Commission of Internal Revenue."

"Oh! that is the man, is it? Strong appointment; good man! Stewart then is the man for the Treasury; Washburne for the Navy Department."

"He won't accept that; he wants to go to Europe to recruit his health."

"Yes he will; he'll take it temporarily anyhow; I know that."

"New York carries off the big pill, after all. I think Stewart is the strongest of the batch. He will administer the Treasury on practical principles, not as an empirical quack."

One heard questions, answers and observations like these on every side. Little groups were gathered in corners and window recesses discussing the merits of the candidates. Some talked quite excitedly and made speeches. One person, much amused at Stewart's nomination, was pitching in very freely. "If Grant has made a fine mess of it," Stewart is no true republican; he did not go to assist Johnson at the Philadelphia Convention, and tried to whitewash Johnson so as to make him appear like a decent white man, which he is not. Now, I say a man who, like Stewart, would do that has no claim upon the republican party, and ought not to be honored with a Cabinet appointment."

"It's not true," interrupted a listener to this harangue, "that Stewart is not a good republican. He is sound to the backbone. He did not endorse Johnson's extraordinary policy. He is with Congress and Grant on all the important questions of reconstruction, finance and retrenchment. He will make a splendid record for the Treasury Department."

"So say I!" "And I!" "And I!" shouted several in the crowd.

"All right, gentlemen; we'll see who's right. If Grant don't repeat his action I'm a fish!" retorted the excited anti-Stewart man, and moved off.

It would be useless to repeat the observations further. It will suffice for all purposes that the varieties of opinions expressed were remarkable, but that, summing the whole thing up, the majority was favorable to Grant's appointments. The friends of the disaffected aspirants of course exhibited chagrin and bad temper, but they were outnumbered by the disinterested, who had no axes to grind and saw in Grant's nominations only a strong mark of his wisdom and freedom from party trammels.

President Grant's Messages Opened in Executive Session—The Nominations of the Cabinet—While all this was being enacted outside the executive session was progressing smoothly. The moment the doors were closed the envelopes were broken and the names read aloud to the Senators. No opposition was exhibited. When the name of Boris for the Navy was reached on the list some of the Senators cried out, "Who is Boris?" Old Simon Cameron supplied the answer. He jumped to his feet and said, "Boris is a Pennsylvanian, about sixty years old, of vigorous intellect, strong republican principles, steady habits, a member of the Loyal League, a zealous worker in the Christian Commission during the war, a member of the Sanitary Commission and a man who will adorn the position to which he has been appointed." "Let's put him through then," exclaimed Senator Howe, of Wisconsin. "He'll attend to Long's case when he's confirmed." His formal vote was gone through with in the case of each Cabinet appointment, resulting in confirmation by a unanimous accord. The military nominations, elevating Sherman and Little Phil Sheridan and appointing Delano to succeed Rollins, were disposed of with equal unanimity, and the executive session ended.

The Senate Doors Again Opened—Expressions of Opinion by Senators and Others.

When the executive session broke up the host of people outside in the lobbies made an irruption on the floor of the Senate and swarmed all around the desks and seats of members, who were quickly made each in turn the centre of an anxious group, and the one universal query flung in upon them from every side, "How do you like the Cabinet?" "Oh, very well," was the answer from one. "It suits me," said another. "They are all to my taste," said a third. "It's a good, strong Cabinet," emphasized a fourth. "All but Boris," replied a fifth. "He might have done a little better," complacently responded a sixth, and so on all over the Senate, the sum total being that four-fifths of the Senators expressed themselves satisfied and one-fifth might be put down as querulous. Cameron found fault with Stewart, Howe with Boris, Drake with Creswell, Howard with Cox, Sumner with Washburne, Conkling with Hoar; but none were united in disparagement of the Cabinet as a whole. The Cabinet, and nothing but the Cabinet, was discussed for an hour and a half over the entire floor of the chamber.

An Irate Jerseyman.

A radical citizen of New Jersey made himself conspicuous near the entrance of the Senate by his wholesale denunciation of the entire Cabinet. He held forth in so loud and fluent a strain as to gather a considerable circle of listeners around him, some of whom flatly contradicted his assertions, which only had the effect of firing up his ardor, until he supposed himself already in possession of the floor of the Senate and making a speech for the Secretary. After thoroughly ventilating his views about Stewart and the rest he proceeded to another quarter of the chamber, and getting into Simon Cameron's seat, he very soon managed to draw an audience around him that got so eager to hear his fearless utterances that they mounted on the adjacent seats and desks until they were finally scattered by the doorknockers. This citizen of New Jersey began his oft repeated veto of the newly made Cabinet by declaring it a lot of damned rebels. Stewart, in the first place, was one. His headquarters were in the South, and he wanted to see them suffer. "Yes, sir," he exclaimed, "Stewart was on Johnson's side at the time of the Philadelphia Convention, and was never known as a square up and down republican. I want to see Cornell, of New York, Secretary of the Treasury. He's my man." "What do you think of Creswell?" inquired a bystander. "Well, I say," replied the Jerseyman, "Maryland should have no place in Grant's Cabinet. If they got the chance in that State they'd cut his throat to-morrow." "What about Cox?" demanded an inquisitive old fellow who appeared to be taking a deep interest in the slashing style of the criticism. "Cox be damned!" was the energetic response; "why didn't he appoint Ben Wade? Only for Cox negro suffrage would have been carried in Ohio. Damn such men! I tell you, gentlemen, Grant can't afford to treat the republican party in this fashion. If he thinks he can he is very much mistaken. Better for him be the shot and his leg amputated, like General Sickles, than treat the men that elected him in this manner." The point of this remark was not exactly understood by those around, but it was thought to convey some vague idea of the enormity of Grant's transgression. "What has he done?" continued the light of Jersey. "For the Wilsons, the Sumners, the Boutwells, the men that have fought and suffered for freedom? No, gentlemen, he will never do. And who is Boris? Who is Hoar? What is Cox? Fiddlesticks! If Grant wants to go clean overboard in three months he had better hold on to Stewart's clasp-knives. Thus did this irate orator hold forth with a degree of utter disgust at the appointments, forcibly expressed in his voice and manner.

Sensor Pomeroy spoke highly of Hoar, and recommended him especially on the score of his advanced opinions on conservative reform. Senator Wilson was also eulogistic of the Massachusetts appointee, and said he stood three heads higher than any other man. Pomeroy was one of the few who knew the mysterious Boris, of whom he spoke in excellent terms. Each one of the appointments had a special enthusiast, who was prepared to declare that his man was the greatest and best of all others. But taking the general expression of the mass of the people on the floor, the Cabinet was pronounced satisfactory. The army promotions were little questioned, as they were considered inevitable and proper. Sheridan for Lieutenant General was hailed by every good republican as a fit recognition of the gallant Phil.

Scenes in the House of Representatives—The Excitement Equal to that in the Senate.

Shortly after two o'clock to-day the news of President Grant's Cabinet appointments reached the House of Representatives. The House was engaged at the time in considering the right of John Covode to be sworn in as a member. So much disorder had prevailed upon the floor day after day that the Speaker was obliged to arrest the proceedings about every ten minutes, and admonish members that unless they ceased conversation in the hall he would be compelled to call them by name. The question in which the House was most interested was not whether John Covode or his competitor was most entitled to a seat, but who would be nominated for the Cabinet. This was being discussed in every part of the hall, when suddenly the noise and confusion became so great that Scofield, of Pennsylvania, who was speaking at the time, ceased to be heard, and even the speaker in his loudest tones failed to arrest the attention of members. Some members who had been over at the Senate when General Rawlins arrived there with the Cabinet nominations had obtained the list and rushed over with it to the House. In a second nearly all the members on the republican

side of the hall were gathered together in a knot, jostling and pushing each other to get near the individual who had the list. "Why don't you read it? Read it out loud!" more distinct than the utterances of Mr. Scofield, who kept on speaking at the time. Finally some one cried out—"Read it from the Clerk's desk, so we can all hear." This arrested Scofield, who, seemingly ignorant of the cause of the hubbub, requested the Speaker to maintain order in the hall. In the meantime Mr. McPherson, the Clerk of the House, had reached the Clerk's desk with the list in his hand and commenced reading. The first name on this list was that of E. B. Washburne for Secretary of State. This name is so familiar in the House that it attracted little attention except among the knowing ones, and a vague idea seemed to prevail that McPherson was calling the roll. When he announced the words "Secretary of State," however, that was dispelled, and in a second the hum of voices ceased both on the floor and in the galleries, and the hitherto turbulent House was as still as the grave. Everybody's mind was occupied about the Cabinet, but very few expected it would be announced in the House; so that the feeling on hearing the list read was one of wonder. There was no token of approbation or disapprobation following the announcement. The hum of conversation was resumed, and the noise and confusion became greater than ever. The Speaker's gavel came down thunderously upon the desk, but the members paid no attention. Somebody moved a recess of ten minutes; but Scofield, raising his voice above the din, said he had no idea of being taken off the floor in that style. Several republicans gathered around him and besought him to yield. Finally the uproar was so great that neither the Speaker nor anybody else could be heard. Eldridge shouted that he hoped Scofield would yield so as to allow the members a chance to commiserate each other. This elicited an outburst of laughter in the midst of which Scofield sat down, and the Speaker, without putting the motion, said the House would take a recess for five minutes. The discussion of the new Cabinet now began in earnest. The members gathered in groups all over the hall, and each appointment—its fitness, its popularity, and its probable effect upon the republican party was discussed with an animation seldom entering into the debates of the House. C. C. Washburn, E. B.'s brother, was for a time the centre of attraction. "Cad, will Elihu accept the State Department? Is that the place he wanted?" were among the questions showered in rapid succession upon Washburn. "Don't know," says Cad; "don't think Elihu would long, at any rate, but he does accept it. He would rather go abroad for his health; it would suit him better, I think." "If he goes into the State Department," said some one, "he will have a better chance to nominate himself for some first class mission abroad." "I'll bet the first recommendation he'll make will be that of E. B. Washburne as Minister to France," said a Western man. "He'll cut down all the salaries of the foreign Ministers and Consuls," said another. "Except that of Minister to France," interrupted another, amid general laughter. "Who is A. B. Boris, Kelley?" said a Western member to Judge Kelley. "Boris," responded Kelley, is a first rate fellow; he is a wealthy merchant of Philadelphia and a good republican; is a member of the Union League and has given liberal sort of a merchant in the party."

What sort of a merchant is he? Did he ever build non-conformity or was he ever at sea?" "No," Kelley, "he was a dry goods merchant; but he's retired now." "Well, then," continued the interrogator, "what the — was he appointed Secretary of the Navy for? What does a dry goods merchant know about the navy?" "Oh, he'll make a good Secretary of the Navy," returned Kelley; "he's an able man, and could fill any department." "Boutwell," said a member, "what do you know about this man Hoar, from your State, who is nominated Attorney General?" "Well," replied Boutwell, "Hoar is a good man; he is as able a man as there is in the Senate—a man with a clear head. He is an excellent lawyer, but no orator. He has been on the Supreme bench of our State, and is generally liked. He is a high-toned man, and stands well professionally." "How do you like A. T. Stewart, Secretary of the Treasury, Kelley?" said a New Yorker to the tariff member from Pennsylvania. "Well, he's a free trader," said Kelley, "and you know I don't particularly like any of those fellows. I suppose he will hold on to that man Wells as Special Commissioner of the Revenue, and allow him to run the department in the interests of the foreign importers and British free traders. That don't suit us Pennsylvanians, you know." "Well, Stewart will make a good Secretary of the Treasury," retorted the New York man, evidently pleased that his State had been recognized by Grant. "Any man who can run an establishment like his successfully can manage our finances; I am satisfied of that. Besides, Stewart is rich and won't want to steal." "It doesn't follow," said a Massachusetts member, "that because Stewart is a successful dry goods merchant he will make a good Secretary of the Treasury. Managing an establishment with a big capital is one thing and running one that is heavily in debt is quite another." "Stewart," said a New York radical, "ain't much of a republican. He never voted the ticket in his life until he voted for Grant and Conkling. Do you know that he is a member of the Manhattan Club, of New York?" "That ain't much against him," said another member; "you know Ben Butler dined with the Manhattan Club not long ago, and nobody questions his republicanism. What we want," continued this man, "is some person who will collect the revenue and manage our finances with honesty and ability, and I believe Stewart will do that. That's what we want of him."

Governor Cox, the Secretary of the Interior, came in for a dose of criticism, not only among the Ohio members, but among the republicans generally. He don't represent the republican party of Ohio," said a member from that State. "No, nor of any other State," chimed in another member. "He's a Hessian, and came near breaking up the party in our State," said another Ohioan, with considerable warmth of feeling. "If the party had depended upon such men as Cox in Ohio it would have gone to ruin long ago." This indignant individual continued, "Didn't Cox sympathize with Johnson a little?" inquired one of the Eastern members. "Of course he did," said several members of the group at once. The indignant Ohioan, resuming, said, "The idea of passing by such men as Old Ben Wade and appointing a fellow like Cox as a representative of the republican party in Ohio is perfectly ridiculous. Why, Cox could not be elected to any office at home, except it might be as a local place in a bad republican district." "Well, you must admit," said another Ohio member by way of mollifying the wrath of his colleagues, "Yes, but then he won't bring any strength to the administration," said an Illinois man. These no party men who were without any settled political convictions are of no account in giving strength to a party. They are neither one thing nor another, and the people don't like them. That is the trouble. The great majority of the people like positive men, and the republicans have more respect for a straight out democrat than they have for a half-way milk and water republican. No fault whatever is found by the republicans with Creswell's appointment. The Southern men are particularly jubilant over Creswell being in the Cabinet, because they regard it as a recognition of their section. He being claimed as a Southern man. The appointment of Secretary of the Navy, this the opinion of the two members in the House from Philadelphia, as well as several gentlemen personal friends of Mr. Boris now here. It is thought that in case Mr. Boris refuses to serve the place will be tendered to George H. Stuart, of Philadelphia. It is understood that the position for which Mr. Stuart was originally designated was one requiring great labor and attention, and that the condition of his health was the only difficulty in the way of his acceptance of it. The Navy Department, however, now that peace is restored, is the easiest place in the Cabinet, and it is said Stuart would probably accept of it. As to Washburne, it is believed that if he accepts at all it will only be to hold on for a short time. There is a rumor that General Dix will be the permanent Secretary of State.

Columbus Delano, Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

President Grant to-day accepted the resignation of Commissioner Rollins of the Internal Revenue

to take effect upon the confirmation of his successor. The President, shortly after receiving Mr. Rollins' resignation, nominated to the Senate Commissioner of Internal Revenue Columbus Delano, of Ohio, who was immediately confirmed.

Promotion of Military Officers.

The Senate to-day also confirmed the following nominations:—Lieutenant General W. T. Sherman, to be General of the Army. Major General Philip Sheridan, to be Lieutenant General, vice Sherman, promoted. Brigadier General John M. Schofield, to be Major General, vice Sheridan, promoted. Colonel Christopher C. Augur, to be Brigadier General, vice Schofield, promoted.

A large number of other military nominations were also confirmed.

Probable Declination of Mr. Washburne.

It is ascertained on what may be deemed good authority, that Mr. E. B. Washburne will not accept the position of Secretary of State.

The President Grant's Cabinet—An Old State Retained.

A difficulty has sprung up in the way of Mr. Stewart's accepting the appointment of Secretary of the Treasury. The difficulty is found in an old statute of 1790, section forty-one, which reads as follows:—No person appointed to any office instituted by this act shall, directly or indirectly, be concerned or interested in carrying on the business of trade or commerce, or be owner in whole or in part of any sea vessel, or purchase by himself, or another in trust for him, any public lands or other public property, or be concerned in the purchase or disposal of any public securities of any State or of the United States, or take or apply to his own use any emolument or gain for negotiating or transacting any business in the said department other than what shall be allowed by law; and if any person shall offend against any of the prohibitions of this act he shall be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanor and forfeit to the United States the penalty of \$5,000, and shall, upon conviction, be removed from office and forever thereafter be incapable of holding any office under the United States; provided that if any other person than a public prosecutor shall give information of any such offence, upon which a prosecution and conviction shall be had, one-half of the aforesaid penalty of \$5,000, when recovered, shall be for the use of the person giving such information.

This law, if unrepelled, is undoubtedly a bar to Mr. Stewart's acceptance. Half an hour after his confirmation the difficulty was brought to his knowledge, and his friends instituted an investigation and set to work studying how the matter might be got over. Mr. Stewart and Judge Hilton called upon President Grant to talk over the question. The President took it very coolly, and said it could be fixed up without trouble. It was one of those unforeseen little obstacles, he said, which spring up occasionally, but he would brush it away without delay. He said that he would send in a message to Congress to-morrow, recommending the repeal of the obnoxious section immediately, and had no doubt Congress would act upon his recommendation promptly. A message on the subject may, therefore, be looked for to-morrow from President Grant. The discovery has occasioned quite a sensation and no little merriment. The fact that the sage Senators, who are supposed to know everything, and particularly the laws of the country, ancient and modern, should have overlooked the section referred to and actually have confirmed Mr. Stuart, contrary to law, creates wonder and amusement. The rumor that a Cabinet meeting was held on the subject to-night is untrue.

A Cabinet Meeting Called for To-Day.

A Cabinet meeting has been called for eleven o'clock to-morrow. All the members will be present except Messrs. Hoar and Cox.

Visitors to the White House—How the President Appears.

The White House was the objective point of all those visitors in the city who had not gone to the Capitol to witness the first proceedings of the two houses of Congress. At an early hour parties of visitors took the road to the Presidential mansion, and before President Grant arrived, quite a large assemblage was there to greet him. The President arrived about nine o'clock, accompanied by Mrs. Grant, and after looking into several rooms entered that used by Mr. Johnson as an office. The President was accompanied by two members of his staff, and very soon after his arrival sent for the members of his personal staff and requested them to aid him in the transaction of business until such time as a permanent arrangement could be made. The officers of the personal staff are Generals Rawlins, Dent, Porter, Badeau and Babcock and Colonel Parker. These officers were present at the White House this morning. Owing to the alterations going on in the mansion no visitors were admitted to-day except the Secretary of War, Senators, Representatives, Generals and a few correspondents and reporters. Mrs. Grant visited every part of the White House during her stay, and gave each room a critical inspection. She had hasty sketches of the different floors of the building prepared, which she took away with her, and the probability is that a family council was held to-night for the arrangement of the household affairs for the coming year.

Presentation of a Magnificent Bible to President Grant.

At ten o'clock this morning Chief Justice Chase, Senator Frelinghuysen and George H. Stuart presented to the Executive Mansion for the purpose of presenting to President Grant a magnificent copy of the Bible, manufactured in New York under the auspices of the officers of the American Bible Society. The presentation was of an informal character, and no set speeches were delivered on either side. Chief Justice Chase said that this testimonial was the gift of a number of Christian gentlemen in New York and Philadelphia. Those who had been instrumental in getting it up believed that the great principles and truths contained in this splendid volume would not be disregarded by the head of the nation in the responsible position to which he had in the Providence of God been called. He assured the President that the closing words of his inaugural address would meet with a hearty response from the Christian people of the land, irrespective of creed. President Grant asked the committee to convey to the gentlemen they represented his thanks for this expression of their kindness. It was a present he would always prize as chief among those with which the people had so bountifully bestowed upon him. After some friendly conversation the committee withdrew. The Bible is a rare specimen of book-making, and is probably the finest copy of that book in point of workmanship in America. The type is large and clear and the paper extra heavy and of the purest quality. The binding, which is of heavy Turkey morocco, is massive, and of a chaste and elegant design.

Caucus of Republican Senators.

An informal caucus of republican Senators was held to-day and a committee appointed, consisting of Senator Howe at chairman, and Messrs. Williams, Morrill, Sawyer and Stewart, to review the proceedings of the Senate. Chairman and members of the following committees are to be appointed:—Appropriations, Indian Affairs, Pensions, Mines and Mining, Library and Engrossed Bills. As at the last session of the committees the chairman of the Judiciary, Mr. Trumbull, was retained in his position, it is considered he will not now be removed, though he did vote against the impeachment of Andrew Johnson. It is generally conceded that Senator Anthony will be elected President pro tem.

The Standing Committees of the House.

Speaker Blaine informed a member of the House to-day that he would announce the standing committees of the House on Thursday next. It is understood that Mr. Schenck will remain at the head of the Ways and Means, and Daves will be made Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations. Beyond this nothing is known of the formation of the committees.

The Postmaster of the House.

A republican caucus to-day nominated the present incumbent, Mr. King, to be Postmaster of the House.

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